DEWAN.—Before we proceed with the business on the Agenda, I should like to say a few words on the general trend of affairs since we last met.

The last north-east monsoon was more or less of a failure as you are aware and certain parts of the State have been rather hard hit. These are, as usual, the arid tracts such as Pavagada, Maddagiri -Sira, Srinivaspur and Mulbagal. Shikarpur of Shimoga District is also one of the taluks that has suffered from a failure of these rains. Anekal and Hoskote also are reported to have had a bad time of it. With a view to acquaint myself first hand with the local conditions, I toured in parts of Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts in the latter part of January last. There was doubtless a scarcity of water and fodder perceptible, but I did not see any signs of anything like distress among the rayat population. The Divine Providence has been more merciful to us than to our neighbours in the British Provinces. Government have received reports from the district officers and are considering the recommendations of the Revenue Commissioner as to the best form the relief should take. Very early orders may be expected.

It was found necessary, under these circumstances, to postpone the contemplated abolition of the Food Control measures at least until the Mungar rains have properly set in. The action taken by Government has been greatly appreciated by the rayat population in the areas in question.

I see that the present financial and economic depression has been exercising the minds of our public as much as it does that of Government. It is a world-wide phenomenon, if I may so call it. Financial stringency is not a feature peculiar to our State alone at present. Deficit budgets have been the order of the day. But this is no consolation to us. While other Governments have ample resources at their command to meet the situation, we cannot claim to be so fortunate as to be able to convert deficits into surpluses by a flourish of the magic wand. We must, however, face the situation boldly and do the best we can under the circumstances. Nothing but rigid economy and drastic retrenchment can help us to tide over the present difficult situation. And I may tell the Council that Government are fully alive to the situation and are leaving no stone unturned to meet it.

I do not propose taking up your time now in explaining the special features of the finances of the current and the next year. This I shall do in my address to the Birthday Session of the Representative Assembly.

There is one question which has loomed rather large in the eyes of the public recently. I mean the increase of salaries demanded by the non-gazetted officers of the State Service. While Government are in full sympathy with these officers and their wants, they have gone as far as they could afford to do in granting them the relief prayed for. Under the present condition of our finances, nothing more is possible. I am certain the Finance Committee on which your representatives sit will bear me out.

There is one more subject I wish to touch upon and I have done. I mean the recent Census. The total population of the State including the assigned tract of the Civil and Military Station is 59,76,569 as against 58,06,193 of the previous decennium. The increase works out to 2·93 per cent as against 4·8 per cent of the previous decennium. The present low rate of increase must be accounted for as chiefly due to the havoc played by the last epidemic of influenza which prevailed in 1918. During the three months of its ravage, it was responsible for as many as 1,66,391 deaths. These figures indicate that the last proportionate rate of increase in the population would not only have been maintained but there would have been an increase in this decennium, were it not for this dire disease. As in the previous decennium the Malnad districts of Shimoga and Kadur have again shown an absolute decrease, which is a very deplorable fact, though the decline is somewhat less. And this is no matter for surprise as the total mortality from influenza in these two districts totalled to 28,608 which nearly corresponds to the figures of the decline according to the recent Census, viz., 29,719. Here is one more forcible argument for the improvement of the Malnad. The causes that underlie this marked deterioration of population in the Malnad cannot be said to be entirely climatic. The much-maligned malaria comes in for a large share of the blame as it seems the handiest to get hold of. There are, undoubtedly, other patent causes at work, more deep-seated than what meet the eyes of a casual observer. Economic and social causes are as much responsible as, if not more than, the climatic con-

ditions. Government have, no doubt, undertaken certain measures calculated to improve the existing conditions in these tracts. But this is barely touching the fringe of the problem, the complex nature of which requires a more thorough investigation than it has been possible for Government to embark upon under the present circumstances.

Let me hope that with an improvement in our present financial condition, Government will be able to tackle this important question in right earnest.

RAJASABHABHUSHANA DEWAN BHADUR K.P. PUTTANNA CHETTY, C.I.E.—Sir, we have listened with great interest to your speech which gives us the outlines of the present situation both as regards the food production and the finances of the State. Of course, it is common knowledge that the monsoons have been more or less a failure and it is a matter for satisfaction to the non-official memb his Council that you and the Members of Council toured throughout the nd kept yourselves fully acquainted with the local conditions with a view ise such measures as will be required to afford the necessary relief. We a to hear that the Government contemplate passing such orders as will be ne to give relief in the affected tracts, and we are glad that Government co he food control operations for some time longer, because in the present st he country both within and without our borders it would have been perhaps on if they had been abolished although at one time we were all in favour of ng them; and we now think that Government were well advised in retaining m- trol for some time to come, at least till the mungar rains have declared th es.

It is a matter for thankfulness, Sir, that you have declared that it is cy of Government to carry out stringent economies and drastic retrenchmen b- lic service. It is a declaration which we have been long expecting and ve welcome with great pleasure, and we trust that it will have the effect of ng the Government to bring out a budget that will be well balanced for the ar.

In the matter of the Census it is very pleasing to learn that the in in population has made some progress notwithstanding that we lost as as 160,000 people during the Influenza season. In the city of Bangalore in u- lar, Sir, I should like to bring to the notice of this Council that there has an increase of 30 per cent over the population of the last decennium. (He r.) The city has attracted a large number of people on account of its trade n- dustries and the facilities for earning livelihood which are available to all of the population. The city is growing and the policy of the Government ie Municipality in furthering its growth has had not a little to do with the se of population which I hope it will maintain in the years to come.

Your observations regarding the decadence of population in the malnad k, touch the tender chords of most of the Hon. members present here. ve viewed with dismay the persistent decrease in population from year to ye m- years ago we thought that it was perhaps transitional or temporary. But ct that it is persistent shows that there are deeper causes at work than mere ia or anything of that sort. Possibly social and economic causes to which you l- tally referred might have had a great deal to do with the downward trend l- lation in the Malnad. One of the fairest portions of Mysore is the maln I trust Government will spare no pains or expense in arriving at a proper so of the question of arresting its decay and making the Malnad once more the of promise and plenty which it was at one time.

I trust, Sir, that the most important questions which are now enga e attention of Government regarding retrenchments and reduction of establ s will be brought to a speedy conclusion and that we shall be able to begin w year under better auspices than the last.

I. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

THE SECRETARY REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL:—

(*i*) that the Bill to amend the Mysore Land Revenue Code, 1888, and the Bill further to amend the Mysore Village Courts Regulation, 1913, which were passed at the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd November 1920, received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja on the 9th and 16th December 1920, respectively.

(*ii*) that a petition dated the 11th February 1921, was received from Mr. B. Srinivasa Iyengar, Anekal, regarding certain difficulties which might arise out of the amendment of clause (*e*) of Section 75 of the Municipal Regulation proposed in the Bill further to amend the Municipal Regulation, 1906.

II. INTERPELLATIONS.

1. MR. MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN ASKED:—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The total amount of embezzlement of Government money in the Electrical Department that has so far come to the knowledge of Government;

(*b*) why this systematic misappropriation was allowed notwithstanding the existence of a costly department of Efficiency Audit?

(*c*) the dates of the first and the last items of misappropriation;

(*d*) whether the Government propose to hold the responsible officers of the department to make good the losses sustained? If not, how and from whom the public money should be recovered? and

(*e*) what steps Government have taken to find out that no such embezzlements have taken place in other Industrial and Commercial concerns of Government and whether any embezzlements have been reported so far in those departments and, if so, the amounts misappropriated?

MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO REPLIED:—(*a*) Rs. 97,642-4-1.

(*b*) The audit of the accounts of commercial and quasi commercial undertakings of the State is not one of the functions of Efficiency Audit Establishment.

(*c*) 20th June 1919 and 7th May 1920.

(*d*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

(*e*) Periodical examination and detailed audit of the accounts of the concerns have been prescribed. One case of embezzlement involving a sum of Rs. 80 has been reported from the Weaving Factory.

2. MR. MAHOMED ALBAS KHAN ASKED.—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Government Officers in the Mysore State in all departments including Railway and Electrical Departments drawing—

1. Duty Allowance.
2. Local Allowance.
3. Charge Allowance.
4. House Rent Allowance.
5. Conveyance Allowance to Non-Executive Officers, (Executive Officers to be excluded).
6. Personal Allowance.
7. Any other allowance (saving acting allowance), and the annual amount sanctioned under each of the above items to be shewn against each item.

MR. M. N. KRISHNA RAO REPLIED:—The particulars required are available in the Civil List and the Budget Estimates. If the member wants information to be compiled, a statement will be placed on the table at the next meeting.

3. (*a*) MR. H. KRISHNA RAO ASKED.—Are the Government aware of the existence in Mysore, of a Company known as "Mysore Government Security Life and Marriage Insurance Company, Limited"?

(*b*) Are the Government further aware that the General Secretary of the Company has been specially advertising in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras papers, purposely avoiding Mysore papers?

(*c*) Is it a fact that an agency has been formed at Madras in No. 57, Thumboo Chetty Street, and that the Madras Syndicate have been collecting funds on the assurance that the Mysore Government have stood surety for the stability of the Company?

(*d*) Has the Company invested any money with the Government of Mysore; if it has not, will the Government be pleased to take action to prevent outside people being misled by such advertisements?

MR. MIR. HAMZA HUSEIN REPLIED.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the advertisements in question.

(*c*) The Government have no information on the subject.

(*d*) As far as the Government are aware, the answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. Regarding the second part, certain action has already been taken, and the further action to be taken is under consideration.

4. MR. M. SUBBIAH ASKED.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) If they are aware of the general complaint among the public against Sub-Registrars regarding the practice of collecting extra fees for registering documents over the legal fees and the loss and the inconvenience the public is put to if the illegal demands are not satisfied and, if so, what action the Government have taken to prevent the practice?

(*b*) Have District Registrars been appointed to inspect the Sub-Registrars' Offices and, if not, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of delegating this function to the Excise Assistants in addition to their present duties?

(*c*) Have any particular instances of mal-practice come to the notice of the Inspector-General of Registration and, if so, what punishment has been meted out to such Sub-Registrars?

(*d*) Will the Government kindly consider the advisability of appointing a committee of officials and non-officials in order to suggest measures to improve the department and to prevent the existing evils?

MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO REPLIED.—(*a*) and (*c*) The Government are not aware of such a general complaint. When specific instances are brought to notice, suitable action is taken.

(*b*) The question of appointing full time District Registrars which has been under the consideration of Government, has now been deferred in view of the financial position. Government do not consider it advisable to delegate the functions to District Excise Officers.

(*d*) The Government do not see the necessity of appointing such a Committee.

5. MR. B. V. RAMASWAMY CHETTY ASKED.—Will Government be pleased to state whether the actual cost of the Bhadravati Iron Works is far in excess of the original estimates?

If the answer to this question is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the cause of such excess and why the original estimates could not have been correctly made?

MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO REPLIED.—The original estimate of the capital expenditure of the undertaking including Forest Tramways was Rs. 94 lakhs. According to revised estimates the cost is expected to be about 130 lakhs. The excesses are mainly due to the extraordinary rise in the prices of machinery and materials and in the cost of labour.

6. MR. B. V. RAMASWAMY CHETTY ASKED.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether they have ascertained (1) that owing to failure of rains this year, most of the tanks in the Bangalore District and other districts did not receive

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sufficient supply of water, and (2) that in consequence of this, wet crops could not be raised in the lands under such tanks?

(*b*) whether in consideration of the failure of wet crops this year the assessment would be remitted either wholly or partially?

(*c*) whether the refusal to remit assessment will not work great hardship on the people and violate the principle on which the Government have hitherto acted?

MR. K. MATTHAN REPLIED.—(*a*) The Government have made enquiries as to the agricultural situation in the Bangalore District as well as in other parts of the State.

(*b*) and (*c*) The nature and the extent of the relief to be given are under consideration.

7. *RAO BAHADUR M. SHAMA RAO ASKED.—Will the Government be pleased to furnish a general view of the financial position of the State as it stands at present and with special reference to capital expenditure on the various works estimated to be productive?

MR. M. N. KRISHNA RAO, REPLIED.—The Government are carefully examining the financial position of the State as it stands at present and will explain it in connection with the Budget Estimates for 1921-22 at the next meeting of the Council.

8. MR. M. ANANTHIAH SETTY ASKED.—(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state why the permission sought for in July last by the newly constituted Chitaldrug Municipal Council to elect their own non-official Vice-President has not been as yet granted in spite of repeated requests by the Council?

(*b*) Whether they are aware that this delay has contributed towards the discouragement of the policy of the local self-government which the Government are anxious to popularise?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state when the permission will be granted?

MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO REPLIED.—(*a*), (*b*) *and* (*c*)—The resolution of the Municipal Council was brought to the notice of Government subsequent to the nomination of the present Vice-President on 20th July 1920.

The question is engaging the attention of Government and early orders will be issued.

9. MR. G. PARAMASIVIAH ASKED.—When I interpellated the Government in November 1920, regarding the death of the Wodder woman Mari, they were pleased to state that death seemed to be due to natural causes.

Will they now be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether their attention has been drawn to the 'Local news' column of the 'Daily Post' dated the 1st December 1920, in which it is stated under the heading "A mysterious death" that the chemical examination disclosed the presence of arsenic in the viscera of the Wodder woman Mari, who died while she was in custody of the Bangalore Taluk Police?

(*b*) Whether any further investigation in the matter was ordered by the Government; if so, the result thereof?

(*c*) If the reply to the above be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to order a detailed enquiry and publish the same?

MR. MIR HAMZA HUSEIN REPLIED.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) & (*c*) The District Magistrate who was asked to hold a special enquiry has submitted a report which shows that death was due to natural causes. A copy of the District Magistrate's order is laid on the table for the information of the Member. (Appendix A.)

10. MR. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO ASKED.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether they propose to publish for the information of the public and for an expression of opinion by them, the report of the Committee appointed to

*As Mr. Shama Rao was absent from the meeting, the question was put by Mr. Ramachandra Rao on his behalf.

consider the question of the relationship between inamdars and persons holding lands in inam villages before orders are passed on the Committee's recommendations?

(*b*) Whether any legislation based on the recommendations of the Committee is under contemplation before the publication of the report?

(*c*) Whether the report would be brought up before this Council for discussion and, if so, in what form and when?

MR. K. MATTHAN REPLIED.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The report will come before the Legislative Council if legislation is deemed necessary.

11. MR. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO ASKED.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) The excise revenue derived by Government from the Municipal limits in each of the eight district headquarter towns in the State during each of the preceding three years?

(*b*) Whether the Government have been paying any portion of such excise revenue for the use of the municipalities concerned?

(*c*) If not, whether the Government will be pleased to augment the resources of the said municipalities by allotting to each a portion, if not the whole of such excise revenue?

(*d*) Whether any exception is made in the case of any other municipality in the State in the matter of the allotment of a portion of such revenue and if so, on what special grounds?

MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO REPLIED.—(*a*) A statement is placed on the table. (Appendix B.)

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) Government have recently passed orders stating that they are prepared to permit Town Municipalities to levy registration and surcharge fees on arrack as in force in Mysore and Bangalore cities (*Vide* Government order No. R. 5203-12—Ex. 53-20-2, dated the 15th October 1920). It is open to the municipalities to submit in this behalf proposals to Government.

(*d*) No exception is made in favour of any municipality in this matter except to the extent mentioned in the reply to clause (*c*) above.

12. MR. B. N. VIJAYADEVA ASKED.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to introduce at an early date a Regulation on the lines of the Usurious Loans Act of 1918, passed by the Governor-General of India?

MR. MIR HAMZA HUSSEIN, REPLIED.—There is no such proposal before Government at present, but if there should be a demand for legislation, the matter will be considered.

13. MR. H. G. BASAVAPPA ASKED.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether they are aware of the prohibition of cow-killing in the dominions of His Exalted Highness the Nizam?

(*b*) Whether they are aware that the Marwari Association of Calcutta has made a representation to the Government of India on the subject of the protection, preservation and improvement of cows?

(*c*) Whether they do not consider it desirable to take similar action in the interests of the cattle of our country?

MR. MIR HAMZA HUSSEIN REPLIED.—(*a*) and (*b*) Government have no information on the subject.

(*c*) Statistics have been called for from local bodies as regards the number of cattle-slaughtered during the last three years. On receipt of information, the expediency of taking action in the manner suggested will be considered.

14. MR. H. VENKATRAMAIYA ASKED.—With reference to my question No. 3 on 22nd November 1920, will the Government be pleased to state—

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(1) If they are aware (*a*) that no accommodation is still provided for the Empress Girls' School at Tumkur and (*b*) that in consequence of this drawback the popularity of the school as well as its efficiency has considerably gone down?

(2) If the department of education has taken any, and if so, what steps in the matter?

(3) If the department has not taken any steps, will the Government be pleased to order immediate steps to be taken to secure a suitable habitation for the school?

MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO REPLIED.—(1), (2) and (3). The Inspector-General of Education, in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner, proposes to locate the Empress Girls' School and the Normal School in separate portions of the Old Taluk Cutcherry buildings after the Lock-up is removed. The building has not yet been handed over to the Education Department.

15. MR. H. VENKATARAMAIYA ASKED.—Will Government be pleased to state—

(1) If it is true that the Inspector-General of Education has issued orders to all educational institutions in the State not to subscribe for the newspapers "Sampadabhyudaya", "Sadhvi", and "The Mysore Patriot?"

(2) If true, what are the reasons for issuing such orders?

MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO REPLIED.—(1) Yes.

(2) The Government understand from the report of the Inspector-General of Education that he issued the order because he considered that the papers in question did not afford suitable reading for the schools.

16. RAO SAHEB H. CHANNAIYA ASKED.—Will Government be pleased to state—

(1) Whether their attention has been drawn to the article in the "Truth" of the 24th February 1921 to the effect that in the year 1913 or so the Industries and Commerce Committee sanctioned loans to the extent of 10 lakhs of rupees for industrial purposes, repayable in 3, 5 and 7 years and that even though the maximum period of 7 years has expired, about 9 lakhs out of 10 have yet to be recovered?

(2) If so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table a statement of all such loans granted since the year 1912 up-to-date giving the names of grantees, amounts of loans granted, nature and value of security obtained from them, purposes for which the loans were granted, terms of repayment, the amounts recovered since and the steps taken in each case for the recovery of such loans which have already become due?

MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO REPLIED.—(1) The Government have now perused the article referred to by the Member.

(2) A statement of loans sanctioned from the year 1912 with the particulars asked for by the Member would be a voluminous one and Government consider that no useful purpose would be served by attempting such a compilation. Up-to-date a sum of Rs. 7 lakhs has been actually disbursed on account of such loans. A careful watch is kept over recoveries of instalments due and Government review once a quarter the demand, collection and balance statements received from the Director. A copy of the latest demand, collection and balance statement for the quarter ended 31st December 1920 is placed on the table for information. (*Vide* Appendix C.)

17. MR. ABDUR RAHMON ASKED.—Will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a correspondence appearing in the columns of the "Daily Post" dated 28th September 1920, regarding the arrest of one Bhagvan Doss of Muzzafarnagar?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Police authorities promised one Nasir Ali *alias* Sabjan a good reward if he would trace out the Sadhus for whom he made the ladle?

(*c*) If so, have the Police authorities fulfilled their promise of giving Sabjan a reward in the shape of a gold medal?

(*d*) Will not this set a good example for the public to be useful and helpful to the Police on similar occasions?

(*e*) Will not the non-fulfilling of this promise discourage the public from rendering assistance in such instances?

MR. MIR HAMZA HUSEIN REPLIED.—(*a*) to (*e*). On the recommendation of the Inspector-General of Police, a suitable reward has been sanctioned by Government to Nasir Ali *alias* Sabjan for his services in the matter.

18. MR. N. S. NANJUNDIAH ASKED.—With reference to the answers given at the meetings of this Council on 25th March 1920, 19th May 1920 and 22nd November 1920, in respect of—

(*a*) Providing separate accommodation for the District Police Office of Hassan in a building other than the District Lock-up buildings;

(*b*) The scheme for the provincialisation of the Treasury Staff and the proposals for the reorganisation of the District and Taluk Treasuries, which were pending before Government;

(*c*) Revision of existing rules as regards the diet of under-trial prisoners in Lock-ups; and

(*d*) Rectification of defects, if any, in the Government Industrial School at Hole-Narsipur, after inspection by the Inspector-General of Education;

Will the Government be pleased to state whether any, and, if so, what progress has been made in giving effect to the replies made on those occasions?

MR. K. MATTHAN REPLIED.—A statement giving the information required by the Member is laid on the table. (*Vide* Appendix D.)

19. MR. D. VENKATESAIYA ASKED.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether it is not a fact that the Kolar Town Municipal Council have, over five years ago, acquired the huts belonging to the Holeyars in Kataripalya, in the Kolar town for the improvement of the Southern Extension?

(*b*) Whether it is not a fact that the compensation for acquisition has been paid in full, but possession not delivered to the Kolar Town Municipal Council? If so, who is responsible for not delivering possession; and whether Government propose to take any action in the matter?

MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO REPLIED.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A sum of Rs. 1,038-4-8 is reported to have been paid as compensation for the lands acquired. As the Holeyars to be displaced have not so far been provided with suitable sites by the Municipality, possession could not be taken of the acquired lands. The Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, will be requested to take necessary action in the matter early.

20. MR. D. VENKATESAIYA ASKED.—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of criminal cases pending in the Courts of Magistrates in the Kolar District on the 1st March 1921;

(*b*) how many of them are pending for over 18 months and how many for over one year?

(*c*) whether the Government would not consider it necessary to introduce the Judicial Separation Scheme immediately into the Kolar District in order to remove congestion of work in the existing Courts as well as to ensure speedy disposal of cases?

MR. MIR HAMZA HUSEIN REPLIED.—(*a*) and (*b*) Information has been called for and will be placed on the table on receipt.

(*c*) The Government are not in a position to introduce the scheme immediately into Kolar District owing to the present financial situation.

III. BILLS.

1. Bill to amend the Breach of Contract Act, 1859.

MR. MIR HAMZA HUSEIN.—Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Breach of Contract Act, XIII of 1859, as introduced

into Mysore by the Government of India Notification No. 110 Rev. dated 23rd March 1866.

The question of amendment of the Act was taken up on the representation of some of the members of the Representative Assembly, who urged that the application of the Act to women labourers was harsh and should be made less rigorous by prohibiting their arrest and imprisonment. The Planters' Associations in the Kadur and Hassan Districts and several other persons, competent to express an opinion upon the subject, were consulted and the balance of opinion, official as well as non-official, being in favour of such exemption, it was decided to take the necessary action to amend the Act. In the meantime the Government of India passed their amending Act, XII of 1920, the old Act being unsuited in many respects to modern conditions, and opportunity was taken to embody the provisions of this amending Act also in our Bill.

It is proposed by these amendments to restrict the application of the Act to cases where the advance does not exceed Rs. 300 and the time for the performance of the contract when a time is fixed, does not exceed one year. A period of limitation (3 months from the date of refusal or neglect) is also fixed for the institution of a complaint. Again discretion is vested in the Magistrate to refuse to put the Act into operation, if he considers that the terms of the contract are substantially unfair to the workmen. Similarly, the Magistrate is empowered to throw out a complaint after examining the complainant on oath and without compelling the appearance of the workman, if it appears to him that there is no ground for proceeding. He can also award compensation to workmen if he is satisfied that the complaint is false, frivolous or vexatious. Further, where a breach of contract has been proved, the Magistrate will have discretion to order either repayment of the advance or performance of the contract and will no longer be bound by the option of the complainant. He will also have power to allow time for repayment and to order payment by instalments and, if the order is for performance of the contract to fix a time not exceeding one year therefor. Any such order may be varied at the discretion of the Magistrate, but not so as to extend the period fixed for the performance of a contract beyond one year. Finally, the Bill provides for imprisonment of either description being awarded as a punishment for a breach of contract. Under the existing law, the imprisonment must, if ordered, be rigorous.

With these remarks, I move for leave to introduce the Bill.

MR. C. S. DORASWAMY IYER.—Sir, I beg to second the motion.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

2. Bill to amend the Mysore Police Regulation, 1908.

MR. MIR HAMZA HUSEIN.—Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Mysore Police Regulation.

The amendments proposed in the Bill refer to clause (a) of Section 56 of the Police Regulation which provides that "whoever without lawful excuse drives along, or keeps standing in, any street a vehicle of any description at any time between three-quarters of an hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise, without a sufficient light or lights except when there is sufficient moonlight to render such light unnecessary, shall be punished with fine which may extend to Rs. 50." It has been brought to the notice of Government that in practice the Police are much handicapped in enforcing this provision as it is a matter of opinion whether at a particular time there is sufficient moonlight or not within the meaning of this clause. It is therefore considered expedient to delete the exception at the end of the clause altogether. The same difficulty having been experienced in Madras the corresponding provision in Section 71 of the Madras City Police Act III of 1888, was similarly amended in 1905.

There is another point in regard to which clause (a) of Section 56 of our Regulation is slightly at variance with the corresponding provision of the Madras City Police Act in that it makes the use of lights for vehicles in public streets obligatory from three quarters of an hour instead of half an hour after sunset. It is proposed to adopt the Madras rule in this respect also.

Both these amendments are found necessary in the interests of public safety and I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce the Bill.

MR. A. SUBRAMANYA IYER—Sir, I beg to second the motion.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

3. Bill further to amend the Mysore Registration Regulation, 1903.

MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO—Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce the Bill further to amend the Mysore Registration Regulation, 1903. The Bill is quite a simple one and involves the amendment of only one section. The necessity of making a provision to enable parties to pay registration fees in the form of stamps instead of cash was pressed on the attention of Government in the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly in 1919 and it was further suggested that the system in existence in Ceylon might be introduced.

Section 18 of Ordinance No. 14 of 1891 issued by the Government of Ceylon provides that every instrument registered in that Colony has to bear a stamp denoting that the fee leviable thereon has been duly paid. It is proposed to give a trial to this system, as an experimental measure, and to amend the Registration Regulation in such a way as to provide for the payment of fees either in cash or by means of stamps affixed to the document as the Government may from time to time direct. If this amendment is adopted it will be open to the Government to revive the present practice without having recourse to fresh legislation, should the new method be found to cause any inconvenience in actual working.

With these remarks, sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce the Bill further to amend the Mysore Registration Regulation, 1903.

MR. K. CHANDY.—Sir, I beg to second the motion.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

4. Bill further to amend the Mysore Municipal Regulation, 1906.

(*a*) MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO.—Sir, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Municipal Regulation, 1906, be read in Council. Leave was granted to introduce the Bill at the meeting of the Council held on the 22nd November 1920. Since then the Bill has been published and copies have been furnished to the members. The main features of the Bill have already been explained and they relate chiefly to construction of sanitary houses for the poor, erection of factories near dwelling houses, construction of rat-proof shops, grain shops and grain stores, composition of municipal offences, resumption of vacant sites and other kindred matters. As I dealt with these points in detail at the time I asked for permission to move the Bill, I do not think I need take up the time of the Council by offering any further remarks. The Regulation of 1906 has been found to be defective in many respects and the amendments proposed are intended to rectify and to introduce suitable changes found necessary in the light of experience gained during the last 14 years. The notes on the clauses referred to in the Bill also explain the scope and object of the amendments.

With these remarks, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Municipal Regulation, 1906, be read in Council.

As copies have been laid before the members, perhaps it may be taken as read.

DEWAN BAHADUR PUTTANNA CHETTY, C.I.E.—Sir, I beg to second the motion.

MR. B. V. RAMASWAMI CHETTY.—Sir, I take it that the amendments proposed have been circulated among the members. There are two Bills here. One Bill has to be passed and that comes last. The other is the Bill further to amend the Mysore Municipal Regulation, 1906, which has to be read here and a Select Committee appointed.

There is some confusion in my mind. I wanted to speak something about the Bill proposing to make a change with regard to Section 136 of the Municipal Regulation and to introduce a new Section 136 (A). I do not know whether it comes in this Bill or in the other Bill.

MR. C. S. DORASWAMI IYER.—It forms a part of the Bill now under consideration.

MR. B. V. RAMASWAMI CHETTY.—Sir, with due deference to the authors of the Bill, both to the Mover and the Seconder, I beg to take objection to one portion of this new section which gives to the President of the Municipal Council power to grant licenses, to establish mills and factories, or to refuse such licenses. I only object to the power being given to the President and not to the Council. Why it was conceived that the power should vest only in the President and not in the Council I fail to see. Already there is a tussle between the President and the Council with regard to this matter. There have been instances in which while the body of the Councillors are of opinion that licenses should have been granted in some localities to persons who applied for licenses to establish mills and factories, licenses have been refused and in places where they ought not to have been granted they have been granted. When the matter is like this, why the power should be centered only in the President and not in the Council, I cannot understand. It is the Council which should have the power either for granting or refusing such licenses. If the Councillors like, they will delegate the power to the President and when the President gets the power he will exercise it. The matter is a very important one because the people are now engaging themselves in industrial pursuits and are taking to all kinds of business. Great grievances are felt by people who applied for licenses and have been refused. Therefore this has become a very important matter. The power should be given to the Council and not to the President. As it is, the President will have the power of either granting licenses or refusing them. It will be a matter of great satisfaction to the Council if this power is given to them. The President will have to perform the functions and duties and exercise the powers that are delegated to him by the Council under the Municipal Regulation. If the Council like to delegate this power to the President, it will be given to him. If the President is a gentleman in whom they have confidence they will certainly delegate this power to him. It is the Municipal Council that should exercise this power. There will be no dissatisfaction. Things will be managed smoothly. Therefore I beg to suggest a change and that is, that instead of giving the power only to the President, the power for granting licenses or refusing them should be given to the Council. I do not object to the other parts of the Bill.

MR. ABDUR RAHMON.—Sir, in this connection I beg to bring to notice that the terms 'Workshop, Factories, etc.,' have not been well defined. This will create a great hardship in the case of small factories where a few men will work. If that is to be prevented the provision should be inapplicable in the case of small factories. It is therefore essential that the the terms 'factories' 'workshop', etc., should be defined.

DEWAN BAHADUR PUTTANNA CHETTY, C.I.E.—Sir, as regards the objection raised by Mr. Ramaswami Chetty, I wish to say that the President of the Council does everything in the name and under the orders of the Council and not in his individual capacity. He is responsible to the Council for every action of his. I do not think he can act independently and apart from the Council as he must carry the Council with him in all that he does. An appeal lies to the full Council on anything done by the President, which may be against public policy or established rules. The question may be considered in the Select Committee stage. Further suggestions may also be considered then. The Bill as drafted supplies a real want and embodies the result of the experience of 14 years of the Municipal administration and may be passed.

MR. B. V. RAMASWAMI CHETTY.—Sir, I do not object to the principle. I only object to one portion where the power is given to the President to grant licenses and refuse them. My suggestion may be considered by the Select Committee.

MR. P. RAGHAVENDRA RAO.—The points to which attention was drawn by Mr. Ramaswami Chetty and Mr. Abdur Rahmon and also the points raised by Mr. Srecnivasaiengar in his petition will be referred to the Select Committee.

The motion was put to vote and carried.

Statement showing the General Level of Prices in Bangalore for the month of May 1921.

No.	Names of articles	Units taken	Standard price 1914	Per cent	May 1921	Ratio
	Food grains and pulses.		Rs. a. p.			
1	Rice	100 seers ..	15 8 0	100	23-0-0	148
2	Paddy	640 ,, ..	3 0 0	100	57-4-10	159
3	Ragi	640 ,, ..	36 0 0	100	62-6-5	173
4	Dhal	100 ,, ..	16 8 0	100	27-15-6	170
5	Javarée	100 ,, ..	8 0 0	100	10-14-5	136
6	Ballar avere	100 ,, ..	7 4 0	100	22-11-8	314
7	Horse gram	100 ,, ..	7 0 0	100	15-8-1	221
8	Bengal gram	100 ,, ..	12 0 0	100	20-14-5	174
			.....	..		1,495
			.....	..		187
	Oils and oil seeds.					
1	Sweet oil	25 lbs. ..	5 8 0	100	8-10-5	157
2	Castor oil	28 ,, ..	4 8 0	100	6-8-10	146
3	Cocoanut oil	25 ,, ..	7 8 0	100	8-6-5	112
4	Kerosene oil	2 tins ..	4 10 0	100	7-11-0	166
5	Cotton seeds	24 lbs. ..	0 12 0	100	1-5-10	182
6	Castor seeds	255 seers ..	23 0 0	100	28-9-7	124
7	Til seeds	255 ,, ..	30 0 0	100	58-9-7	163
8	Huchellu	255 ,, ..	19 0 0	100	29-6-5	156
9	Honge	255 ,, ..	14 8 0	100	20-0-0	138
10	Groundnuts	210 ,, ..	8 0 0	100	14-8-0	181
			.....	..		1,524
			.....	..		152
	Other food articles.					
1	Brown sugar	28 lbs. ..	2 0 0	100	4-14-10	246
2	Jaggery	28 ,, ..	1 14 0	100	4-3-10	226
3	Cocoanuts	No 1000 ..	44 0 0	100	60-8-0	138
4	Copra	25 lbs. ..	6 4 0	100	8-0-0	128
5	Flour, wheat	196 ,, ..	14 9 0	100	25-4-0	173
6	Arecanut	25 ,, ..	9 8 0	100	10-0-0	105
7	Tamarind	210 ,, ..	8 8 0	100	10-15-7	129
8	Coriander	30 local measures ..	4 8 0	100	3-14-5	87
9	Chillies	26 lbs. ..	2 10 0	100	4-11-6	180
10	Coffee	28 ,, ..	8 8 0	100	9-8-0	112
11	Pepper	25 ,, ..	10 0 0	100	6-14-5	69
12	Cardamoms	24 ,, ..	42 8 0	100	25-14-5	61
13	Potatoes	Per 31 mds. of 32 lbs. ..	28 0 0	100	67-8-0	241
14	Ghee	26½ lbs. ..	16 0 0	100	22-8-0	141
15	Salt	80 seers ..	4 8 0	100	5-2-0	114
			.....	..		2,150
			.....	..		143
	Textiles.					
1	Yarn	10 lbs. ..	5 4 0	100	12-1-7	230
2	Cotton, raw	500 ,, ..	158 0 0	100	191-6-5	121
3	Wool	25 ,, ..	5 0 0	100	5-6 0	108
4	Silk	Per lb. ..	7 14 0	100	11-10-5	148
5	Piece-goods (cotton Indian) Dhoties.	Do ..	1 1 6	100	3-3-3	293
6	Piece-goods (Foreign) H. K. Shirtings.	Do ..	1 2 6	100	3-7-6	300
			.....	..		1,200
			.....	..		200
	Others.					
1	Copper	Per cwt. ..	57 0 0	100	102-0-0	179
2	Brass or yellow metal ..	Do ..	54 0 0	100	88-0-0	163
3	Hides	4½ lbs. ..	1 0 0	100	0-7-3	45
4	Bran	140 ,, ..	6 2 0	100	9-11-7	159
5	Seapnut	26½ ,, ..	2 12 0	100	1-5-2	48
6	Bees wax	25 ,, ..	17 0 0	100	18-6-5	108
7	Turmeric	26 ,, ..	4 0 0	100	3-15-5	99
8	Skins	Per 100 ..	90 0 0	100	127-4-0	141
9	Bricks	No. 1000 ..	19 0 0	100	30-0-0	158
10	Tiles	No. 1000 ..	39 0 0	100	57-3-0	147
11	Cast iron	Per cwt. ..	6 12 0	100	19-12-0	293
12	Tobacco	25 lbs. ..	7 6 0	100	12-12-0	173
13	Matches	Per gross ..	0 13 0	100	2-6-0	202
14	Teak timber	Per c. ft. ..	2 10 0	100	5-0-0	190
15	Fuel (casuarina)	Per ton ..	6 12 0	100	17-8-0	250
			.....	..		2,454
			.....	..		164

Abstract.

Item No.	Main head	Items in each of the main heads	Standard index No.	Total index No.	Average
1	Food grains and pulses	8	800	1,495	187
2	Oil and oil seeds	10	1,000	1,524	152
3	Other food articles	15	1,500	2,150	143
4	Textiles	6	600	1,200	200
5	Others	15	1,500	2,454	164
		54	5,400	8,823	163

BANGALORE,
Dated 27th June 1921

K. H. RAMAYYA,
Deputy Director of Commercial Statistics.